

State of Vermont
Division for Historic Preservation
One National Life Drive, Floor 6
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
www.HistoricVermont.org

[phone] 802-828-3211
[division fax] 802-828-3206

*Agency of Commerce and
Community Development*

December 20, 2013

Maria Thurell
Soveren Solar
101 Sullivan Drive
Putney, VT 05346

Re: Petition of Soveren, Inc. pursuant to 30 V.S.A § 248 (j) for a Certificate of Public Good authorizing the installation and operation of a 500 kW net-metered solar electric generation facility to be known as the Westminster Solar Park, US Route 5, Westminster, Vermont. Public Service Board Docket No. XXXX .

Dear Maria:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced project. The Division for Historic Preservation (Division) is reviewing this undertaking for purposes of 30 V.S.A., Section 248. The purpose of the Division's comments is to provide the Public Service Board with the necessary information for their Section 248 review. Project review consists of identifying the project's potential impacts to historic buildings, structures, historic districts, historic landscapes and settings, and known or potential archeological resources.

The proposed Westminster Solar Park project involves the construction of 500 kW solar electric generation facility on a 5.9 acre parcel of land located to the west of Route 5 in Westminster, Vermont. The solar electric generation facility will consist of approximately 1,740 solar photovoltaic panels mounted on 290 ground mounted racking systems. Related infrastructure includes an access drive, inverters, a step-up transformer, underground electrical connections, and a perimeter fence. The project will connect to Green Mountain Power's existing distribution line in the project area.

The project parcel is Lot 1 of the Westminster Business Park, a commercial subdivision permitted under Act 250 Land Use Permit #2W0851 in 2001. At that time, Division review of the subdivision concluded that development of the commercial lots, including Lot 1, would have no effect on any historic sites. This decision was based on the inclusion of the majority of the glacial terrace outside the commercial lots within a conservation easement which prevents any future use beyond agricultural production in this part of the property.

The Division understands that the conservation easement is still in effect and that installation of the solar project does not substantially change the previously permitted commercial use. In addition, Division review including a site visit to the property on November 15, 2013 did not identify any historic structures, districts, or landscapes that will be affected by the facility installation. Accordingly, the Division concludes that this project will have **No Effect** on any



M. Thurell
Page 2 of 2
December 19, 2013

historic sites that are listed or eligible for inclusion on the State Register of Historic Places. This determination is contingent on review of final site plans showing all project components.

Thank you for your cooperation in protecting Vermont's irreplaceable historic and archeological heritage. Yvonne Benny Basque and R. Scott Dillon reviewed this project and prepared this letter. I concur with the findings and conclusions described above.

Sincerely:
VERMONT DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Laura Trieschmann
State Historic Preservation Officer